Amendments to the Written Description

Page 10 - Please replace the first full paragraph and the next following paragraph that bridges pages 10 and 11 with the following amended paragraphs:

A feature of this embodiment is directed to the structure of the distal end portion of the downwardly extending section that includes at least one elongated connecting member, and the lower actuating pivot axis of the actuating means is spaced downwardly from the cover pivot location for the elongated connecting member. Another feature includes bracket means rigidly connected to a cover section of the cover portion, and at least one elongated connecting member rigidly connected at one end thereof to the bracket means. The elongated connecting member is pivotally connected at the other end thereof to a cover pivot axis disposed at the cover pivot location for the downwardly extending section, the upper actuating pivot axis is disposed at an intermediate location between the cover section and the cover pivot location, and the lower actuating pivot axis is spaced downwardly from the cover pivot location for the elongated connecting member. In a more specific feature, cover pivot location of the downwardly extending section is disposed in a first vertically disposed plane, and the lower actuating pivot axis is disposed in a second vertically disposed plane that is parallel to <u>said first vertically disposed plane</u> and laterally spaced outwardly from the sidewall means and the first vertically disposed plane.

In another feature of the invention, the actuating means is effective to move between an extended position and a retracted position wherein the cover portion is in the closed top position when the actuating means is in an extended position, and the cover portion is <u>in</u> an

open top position when the cover actuating means is in a retracted position. More specifically, the actuating means includes hydraulically driven piston means to effect the movement between the extended and retracted positions. When the container is to be used for bulk materials that may blow or shake out of the receptacle, sealing means is disposed between the cover portion and the upwardly facing top peripheral edge section when the cover portion is in the closed top position.

Page 11 - Please replace the first full paragraph and the next following paragraph that bridges pages 11 and 12 with the following amended paragraphs:

A top-loading container for collecting, storing, and transporting bulk material of the invention comprises sidewall means, a bottom portion, and a cover portion. The sidewall means defines a load-carrying receptacle and includes an upwardly facing top peripheral edge section having an open top. Sidewall connecting means pivotally mounts the cover portion to the sidewall means at two pivot locations that are disposed outside of the receptacle. The sidewall connecting means is effective to freely move the cover portion independent of the top peripheral edge section between a closed top position and an open top position. The sidewall connecting means includes at least one connecting member and cover actuating means wherein the sidewall connecting means is fixedly mounted at one end thereof to the cover portion, and the connecting member is pivotally connected to the sidewall means at the other end of the sidewall connecting means at a first of the two pivot locations which are downwardly spaced from the peripheral edge section.

The cover actuating means includes an upper end section and a lower end section

wherein the upper end section is pivotally mounted to the connecting member at an upper pivot axis ~~disposed at a first of said pivot locations~~. The lower end section is pivotally mounted to the sidewall means at a lower pivot axis disposed at a second of the two pivot locations. The lower pivot axis is spaced downwardly and outwardly from the ~~upper~~ cover pivot axis and outwardly from the sidewall means. The cover actuating means is effective to move between an extended position and a retracted position wherein the cover portion is in the closed top position when the cover actuating means is in an extended position, and the cover portion is in the open top position when the cover actuating means is in a retracted position. In a specific embodiment, the sidewall means includes a cover pivot location housing means that projects inwardly along an inside surface of the receptacle, and the first pivot location is laterally spaced inwardly with respect to an outside surface of the sidewall means within the cover pivot location housing means.

Page 14 - Please replace the first full paragraph with the following amended paragraph.

In a specific embodiment of the assembly of the invention, an upper end of the downwardly extending section includes means for holding the cover portion while moving it upwardly and freely out of contact with and away from the top peripheral edge section of the container. A particular feature is directed to the downwardly extending section having a distal end portion pivotally connected to base means at the cover pivot location. And the first end section of the actuating means is pivotally mounted to the ~~distal end portion~~ downwardly extending section at the upper actuating pivot axis, and the second end section of the actuating means is pivotally mounted at the lower actuating pivot axis. For this embodiment,

the mobile base means includes a structural configuration for supporting the container on a wagon, flat-bed vehicle, trailer, dump truck, semitrailer, or railroad car.

Page 16 - Please replace the first full paragraph and the next following paragraph that bridges pages 16 and 17 with the following amended paragraphs:

The connecting member is pivotally connected to the sidewall means at the other end of the sidewall connecting means at a first of the two pivot locations which are downwardly spaced from the peripheral edge section. The cover actuating means includes an upper end section and a lower end section with the upper end section being pivotally mounted to the connecting member at an upper pivot axis ~~disposed at a first of the pivot locations~~, and the lower end section being pivotally mounted to the sidewall means at a lower pivot axis disposed at a second of the two pivot locations. The lower pivot axis being spaced downwardly and outwardly from the ~~upper~~ first of the two pivot axis locations and the sidewall means with the cover actuating means being effective to move between an extended position and a retracted position wherein the cover portion is in the closed top position when the cover actuating means is in an extended position, and the cover portion is ~~the~~ in an open top position when the cover actuating means is in a retracted position.

The mobile base means of this assembly includes a structural configuration comprising a wagon, flat-bed vehicle, trailer, dump truck, semitrailer, or railroad car. In a specific embodiment, the bottom portion includes means for discharging bulk material contents from the receptacle at the unloading position. The sidewall means includes a pivot

location housing means that projects inwardly along an inside surface of the receptacle, and the ~~first~~ cover pivot axis location is laterally spaced inwardly with respect to an outside surface of the sidewall means within the pivot location housing means. The cover portion has an inner surface against which the bulk material is disposed when piled to a level above the top peripheral edge section of the container, and the cover actuating means produces a leveraged force to the cover portion in an amount sufficient to compress the piled bulk material disposed in the receptacle when the cover actuating means moves the cover portion from an open position to a closed position.

Page 19 - Please replace the first full paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

Further features of the assembly of the invention are directed to the use of a cover pivot location of the downwardly extending section being disposed in a first vertically disposed plane, and the lower actuating pivot axis of the cover actuating means is located in a second vertically disposed plane that is parallel to the first vertically disposed plane, and laterally spaced outwardly from the sidewall means and the first vertically disposed plane. The cover pivot location is also located in a first horizontally disposed plane, and the lower actuating pivot axis is in a second horizontally disposed plane that is parallel to the first horizontally disposed plane of the cover pivot location. The cover actuating means may include hydraulically driven piston means effective to move between an extended position and a retracted position wherein the cover portion is in the closed top position when the cover actuating means is in an extended position, and the cover portion is in an open top position when the cover actuating means is in a retracted position.

Page 22 - Please replace the first full paragraph and the next following paragraph that bridges pages 22 and 23 with the following amended paragraphs:

A first embodiment of the invented top-loading container assembly, generally designated 20, and shown in Figure 2 comprises container 22 having an upper peripheral edge section with a compressible sealing member 23 attached to a top peripheral flat surface that precludes material from flowing into or out of the container receptacle when cover member 24 is in a fully closed position. Container 22 may have any desired horizontal cross-sectional geometric shape. For example, the container may be cylindrical having a circular cross-section, square or otherwise rectangular having a plurality of planar sidewalls. The invented actuating mechanism for opening and closing the top cover 24 may be mounted on a planar sidewall of container 22 that has a curved sidewall extending outwardly from the two ends of the planar sidewall portion of the container. Depending on the particular container shape, the assembly may include one or more actuating mechanisms to rotate cover member 24 about the ~~upper~~ cover pivot axis.

~~Container 22~~ Cover member 24 includes an extension portion, generally designated 25, having an elongated connecting member 25a that is fixedly connected at one end thereof to extension portion 25 of cover member 24, and is pivotally mounted at the other end thereof to flange 28 that is fixedly mounted to and projects outwardly from the container sidewall as shown. With the connection of extension portion 25 and connecting member 25a, cover member 24 rotates as a unit with the extension portion about an ~~upper~~ cover pivot axis on flange 28 that is spaced downwardly from the upper peripheral edge section of container 22,

and outwardly from the outer container sidewall surface as shown. When the cover pivot axis is at a location that projects inside the inner surface of container, an internal pivot axis chamber is required as shown in the embodiments of Figures 8-15 so that the pivot axis remains outside the container receptacle.

Page 23 - Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 23 and 24 with the following amended paragraph:

Assembly 30 in Figures 3-4 operates in the same manner as the embodiment of Figure 2 except for the use of coupling stand 31 attached to the base member 32a [.] so that container 32 is removably supported on base member 32a. The actuating mechanism connects to coupling stand 31 to provide the same double pivot connection of the previous embodiment, and operates in the same manner as discussed above. Coupling stand 31 includes a buttress reinforcement structure 31a and is fixedly attached to the flat base 32a. The extension portion 35 and connecting member 35a rotate cover member 34 about cover pivot axis 38, and actuating member 37 is coupled to pivot about an upper pivot axis 36 and lower pivot axis 39 to open and close cover member ~~24~~ 34 and compress sealing member 33 as shown. Lower pivot axis 39 is at a pivot location lower than cover pivot axis 38 and is in a first vertical plane that is parallel to a second vertical plane through ~~upper~~ cover pivot axis 38. As shown, the first vertical plane is outwardly spaced from the second vertical plane. Upper pivot axis 36 is also downwardly spaced and independent of the top peripheral edge section of container 32.

Page 25 - Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 25 and 26 with the following amended paragraph:

In the embodiment of Figure 10, the assembly 60 comprises container 62, bottom discharge conveyor system 66, and the top cover assembly that includes cover member 64, extension portion 65, actuating member 67, and apron portion 68. An elongated bar member 61 is connected to a foldable end wall 63 of flexible sheet material, and is pivotally coupled at an inner end to cover member 64. When unfolded as shown, the structure provides an end wall that prevents loss of material over the rear end of container 62 whenever the harvester forcefully directs material against it during the harvesting process. In this embodiment, the overall width of the top cover member 64 and apron portion 68 is about 90 inches, and bar member ~~64~~ 61 is about 60 inches long to form end wall 63.